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GRANGE-OVER-SANDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1961

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GRANGE OVER SANDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1961

Town Hall,

Ulverston.

September, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1961.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	1,884
Population - Census 1961	3,117
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1961	2,800
Number of inhabited houses	1,180
Rateable Value	£59,523
Sum represented by a penny rate	£237.

The Urban District of Grange-over-Sands is situated on the northern shore of the estuary of the River Kent which forms part of Morecambe Bay. It is a residential town and holiday resort.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1961 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

20 births were registered, 9 females and 11 males. Of these 1 male was illegitimate.

Approximately 82% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The main causes of death were :- Disease of the Heart and Circulation 31, Vascular lesions of nervous system 16 and Cancer 12.

Year	Live Births	Deaths (all causes)	Stillbirths	Maternal Mortality			Infant Mortality		
				Rate per 1,000 population	Number registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered
1961	20	7.1	75	26.8	-	-	-	-	-
1960	23	8.1	65	22.8	-	-	-	-	-
1959	24	4.9	60	21.2	1	66.7	-	-	-
1958	35	12.3	57	20.1	-	-	-	2	57.1
1957	31	10.8	49	17.1	-	-	-	-	57.1
1956	27	9.5	54	19.4	-	-	-	-	-
Average 5 years 1956-60	-	9.1	-	20.1	-	13.3	-	-	11.4
									11.4

Adjusted live birth rate 1961 (comparability factor 1.46) = 10.4 per 1,000
 Adjusted death rate 1961 (comparability factor 0.54) = 14.5 per 1,000

The table below shows the comparison between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales		Grange-over-Sands Urban District	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1961	17.4	12	10.4	14.5
1960	17.1	11.5	11.8	12.3
1959	16.5	11.6	7.2	11.2
1958	16.4	11.7	18.0	10.8
1957	16.1	11.5	15.8	9.1

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held :-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,
Ulverston Urban District
North Lonsdale Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector :-

J. SPENCER, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate R.S.I.,
and S.I.E.J.B. Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods

Other Appointments Held :-

Assistant Surveyor.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The domestic water supply for the Grange Urban District is now supplied by the Furness Water Board which was inaugurated in April, 1961 and comprises the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness, the Urban Districts of Dalton, Grange and Ulverston and the Rural District of North Lonsdale.

The gathering grounds are uncultivated moorland which are grazed by sheep and are situated at Chapel House Plantation in the Parish of Staveley in the North Lonsdale Rural District, supplying the reservoir at Simpson Ground, and a further area at Newton-in-Cartmel where two smaller reservoirs and treatment works are situated.

The total capacity of the reservoirs is 72 million gallons. Water is piped from Simpson Ground reservoir and can be fed either into the reservoirs at Newton or directly to the filtration plant.

The treatment plant consists of eight pressure filters with the necessary chemical tanks etc. Chemicals which are added to assist filtration are Sulphate of Alumina and Sodium Carbonate. After filtration, lime is added, the water is chlorinated and passes to covered storage tanks having a capacity of 140,000 gallons, thence to the trunk mains for distribution. The filtering medium is washed and cleansed twice daily and the pH of the water is checked twice per day.

There are three service reservoirs in Grange, at Windermere Road (150,000 gallons) Hampsfell (200,000 gallons) and Wartbarrow (200,000 gallons) which serve as reservoirs in case of interruption in trunk mains and also for equalising demand in the mains.

There are no private water supplies in the area and all houses have a piped water supply.

Five samples of water going into supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and received satisfactory reports.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Urban District is sewered in the main on a combined system, although some of the houses have rainwater drains leading to soakaways within their own curtilage.

Disposal is by settlement tanks and screening followed by discharge into the tidal estuary.

Most of the district is sewered, apart from isolated areas which are dependent on septic tanks. These areas are briefly, the higher parts of Grange Fell, the Slack area of Windermere Road, Lyndene Estate, a number of farms and Holme Island.

Sewage from the lower end of Grange adjacent to the railway station is collected in a well situated in the Ornamental Gardens where dual pumps are installed to lift the sewage into the main outfall sewer. This sewer runs the full length of the Promenade from the station to the main outfall tanks, where sewage is screened and discharged into the estuary. The high parts of the town (excluding the Kents Bank and Cart Lane area) discharge into the tributary sewers which ultimately join the main sewer on the Promenade.

In the Kents Bank area the main outfall sewer passes under the railway adjacent to Kents Bank Station and then along the seaward side of the railway embankment to a settling tank (situated at Kirkhead End), the outfall from which discharges into the estuary.

The Cart Lane area drains into a settlement tank and then discharges via a tidal door into the estuary.

The outfall of the tank serving the Lyndene area continued to give trouble; the extension of the public sewer from the nearest point in Grange to this area presents some difficulty due to the levels of the intervening land and a Sub-Committee of the Council was appointed to consider the best practicable means of disposal of sewage from the houses at Lyndene.

All the houses in the Urban District are provided with fresh water closets.

Twenty properties were connected to the main sewer during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service operated satisfactorily during the year. A special type of vehicle with a staff of two men is employed on the collection of refuse from domestic properties, giving a collection cycle of twelve days, whilst collections from shops, cafes, large hotels etc., are carried out by two other men operating two days per week and using a general purpose vehicle. The cycle of collections from these latter properties is weekly.

All the houses in the district have moveable dustbins which are renewable by the owners or the occupiers of the property. Occasionally action has to be taken for the renewal of dustbins, but owners have co-operated very well and during the year, any action taken has only been informal.

The whole of the refuse is dealt with at the Council's incinerator, and non-combustible materials, screenings etc. are tipped adjacent to the incinerator. The tip was maintained in a tidy condition and there is no doubt that the stopping of indiscriminate tipping has resulted in better control of the tip and surroundings.

Scrap, baled tins and other materials were sold during the year, receipts for these amounting to £240.

FOOD INSPECTION

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are the particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.

HOUSING

A fairly high standard of housing exists in Grange. The older houses, many of which have been converted into flats are in the main, stone structures, whilst the more modern type are of brick and/or stone.

In the Grange Fell area, where there is a large proportion of smaller and older dwellings, the properties are in a reasonable state of repair, the majority being owner/occupied. The principle defect to this type of house is the shortage of yard space but most have gardens of considerable size thereby reducing the density.

No conditions of overcrowding were discovered during the year.

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats and Maisonettes</u>
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(1) By the Local Authority	-	-
(2) By other Local Authorities	-	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	20	-
1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year		
(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	70	
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	119	
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	59	
(2) Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit		-

2. Houses Demolished during the year :-	Nil
3. Unfit Houses Closed :- Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act 1957	1
4. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied :-	
	<u>By Owner</u> <u>By Local Authority</u>
(1) After informal action by Local Authority	44 -
(2) After formal notice under - (a) Public Health Acts	- -
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	- -
5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :-	Nil
6. Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased By Agreement :-	Nil
7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement Grants, etc.	
Action taken during the year :-	<u>No. of Schemes</u> <u>No. of dwelling houses or other Buildings affected</u>
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority 1 1	
(b) Approved by Local Authority 1 1	
(c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry.. ... - -	
(d) Finally approved by Ministry - -	
(e) Work completed... 1 1	
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above- -	
8. House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 - Standard Grants	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other building affected</u>
Action taken during the year :-	
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority 2	
(b) Approved by Local Authority... 2	
(c) Work completed 1	
<u>Caravan and Camping Sites</u>	

Three sites were used in the district for camping purposes, one only being for caravans, the other two being used for Scouts, Guides etc.

One site licence was issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, this licence being for 25 caravans for use of the site between March and October. No caravans were permanently occupied and the conditions imposed by the Council were based on the Model Standards issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in respect of holiday caravan sites.

Routine visits were made to the sites and discussions held with owners, and occupiers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Number of cases in year					1961		
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	5	6	50	6	31	27	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	19	7	-	-	15	-	-
Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	1	5	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para typhoid fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	46	58	6	32	47	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1961, one of a girl aged 2 years who had tuberculous meningitis and the second a man aged 40 years with respiratory tuberculosis. There were no deaths.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council administer their duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, with the use of two part-time rodent operators, one of whom is hired from the North Lonsdale Rural District Council by mutual agreement as and when occasion demands.

No major infestations by either rats or mice were found during the year, 205 inspections of all types of properties being carried out, resulting in 125 treatments.

Test baiting of sewers was carried out, ten per cent of all manholes on the system being tested but all gave "no takes".

Spot checks on other manholes on the sewerage system adjacent to infested properties were carried out but these too resulted in "no takes".

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959.

Most of the factories in Grange are allied to other businesses, such as shops, bakehouses and workshops operating machines, and are therefore legally designated as factories. Most of these were visited and informal action necessary on a few occasions for want of cleanliness or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	17	1	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker premises).	4	4	-	-

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Forty-three inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1960 and ten offices under the Public Health Act, 1936. Only informal action was necessary where notices were not displayed and cleanliness not up to standard.

SCHOOLS

There are 3 schools within the district. All have a satisfactory mains water supply and sanitary accommodation, and are provided with dustbins. All are drained to the public sewer.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades operating in Grange.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951.

No action was taken under the above Acts during the year.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

The Council own an open-air bathing pool situated on the Promenade and having a capacity of 450,000 gallons. The pool is open for use from May to September and in addition to general public use is used by the schools in neighbouring areas for swimming instruction.

During the early months of the year, the filtration plant was completely renewed and this necessitated major alterations to the filter house. The new plant has been installed by United Filters Ltd., and consists of two nine feet diameter horizontal pressure filters complete with chemical tanks, aerator, circulating pump etc., the original chlorinator has been incorporated with the new plant.

At suitable tides, sea water is drawn off into settling tanks and thence via the filters to the pool. When the pool is full, the tanks are used as balancing tanks throughout the season. During use, the water is continuously filtered and chlorinated, the "turn-over" period being $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Samples of the water taken for bacteriological examination have shown it to be satisfactory.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, I thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council, in particular the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for their courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
ON THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

Only tuberculin tested milk is sold in the district and no heat treated milk is sold. There were twelve persons retailing milk in Grange six operating from premises within the North Lonsdale Rural District, two from dairy farms and four from shops within the district.

Twelve samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and only one gave an unsatisfactory methylene blue test result. The facts were reported to the County Milk Production Officer and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

None of the samples contained tubercle bacilli and none gave positive Brucellosis Ring test results.

ICE CREAM

Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and of these, five are registered for manufacture by the cold mix method. At only one, however is ice cream manufactured, all the remainder sell ice cream obtained from reputable firms. Samples taken conformed to the methylene blue test.

MEAT INSPECTION

One private slaughterhouse is licensed and used by one butcher.

Ante-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out whenever possible and post-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out.

It is pleasing to note that the general standard of health of animals entering this slaughterhouse has been maintained at a fairly high level.

The other butchers in the town buy their meat from wholesale suppliers.

Statistics are given as to number slaughtered and number of diseased animals :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	214	Nil	12	627	39
Number inspected...	214	Nil	12	627	39
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	Nil	Nil	4	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	14.49%	Nil	Nil	0.64%	15.38%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

UNSAFE FOOD

During the year, the following articles of food were surrendered for destruction after examination :-

						<u>Quantity Examined</u>	<u>Quantity Condemned</u>
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	96 lbs.	4 lbs.
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	99 lbs.	27 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.	18 lbs.

FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections of food premises have been carried out. Formal action under the Food and Drugs Act was not necessary, any defects being remedied when attention was drawn to them.

The majority of faults found occurred in food handling practice.

Numerous posters, leaflets, etc., dealing with food hygiene or food handling were distributed to shop-keepers, bakehouses, etc.

The co-operation of traders generally in the attempt to improve still further the standard of food hygiene is commendable.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

J. SPENCER.

Public Health Inspector.

